REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are active in this application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Sato et al. (USP 5,640,462); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Rougee (USP 5,699,446); Claims 5-7 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Chen et al. (USP 6,047,080); Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Mori et al. (USP 4,868,747); Claims 11-17 and 22-28 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Sato et al. and Slack (USP 6,487,432); and Claim 21 was rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over the combination of Sato et al. and Slack in view of Mori et al.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-28, Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding grounds for rejection, because in Applicants' view, independent Claims 1, 11, 16 and 24 patentably distinguish over the applied references.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a designating section which ***designates a region of interest on not less than one image*** of a plurality of X-ray diagnostic images forming a moving image ..." and "a position estimating section which ***estimates corresponding areas on the remaining images*** of the plurality of images ***which correspond to the region of interest.***"

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Sato et al. at column 6, lines 52-54 discloses that the Region of Interest (hereinafter "ROI") control apparatus (17) determines the translational position and range (8) in step 303, which effectively estimates the region of interest (10) for ***all subsequent images***. Applicant disagrees with this assertion. Sato et al. describes that position and width of the ROI ***in the measuring object 9*** are set, and

information on rotating angle of the turn table 4 is transferred to the ROI control apparatus 17 (Sato et al. at column 6, lines 48-51). Consequently, the position and the range 8 (the position indicated with a broad line in FIG.5) of the translation of the scanner 3 are determined (Sato et al. at column 6, lines 52-54) and data on the ROI of the measuring object are collected (Sato et al. at column 7, lines 8-9). Namely, Sato et al. describes a process to collect data on the ROI of ***the measuring object***, but does not disclose to designate the ROI on a collected image and estimate corresponding areas, which corresponds to the ROI, on the subsequent images.

Thus, Sato et al. fails to teach or suggest "a designating section which designates a region of interest on not less than one image of a plurality of X-ray diagnostic images forming a moving image ..." and "a position estimating section which estimates corresponding areas on the remaining images of the plurality of images which correspond to the region of interest," as recited in Claim 1.

Further, Rougee, Chen et al., Mori et al. and Slack also fail to teach or suggest "a designating section which designates a region of interest on not less than one image of a plurality of X-ray diagnostic images forming a moving image ..." and "a position estimating section which estimates corresponding areas on the remaining images of the plurality of images which correspond to the region of interest," as recited in Claim 1.

Similarly, Sato et al., Rougee, Chen et al., Mori et al. and Slack fail to teach or suggest "a designating section which allows an operator to designate a region of interest on the 3D image" and "a position estimating section which estimates corresponding areas on the plurality of 2D images which correspond to the region of interest on the basis of a position of the region of interest designated on the 3D image," as recited in Claim 11.

Similarly, Sato et al., Rougee, Chen et al., Mori et al. and Slack fail to teach or suggest "a designating section which allows an operator to designate a region of interest on

not less than one of the plurality of images" and "a position estimating section which estimates corresponding areas on the remaining images of the plurality of images on the basis of a position of the designated region of interest," as recited in Claim 16.

Similarly, Sato et al., Rougee, Chen et al., Mori et al. and Slack fail to teach or suggest "a designating section which allows an operator to designate a region of interest on the 3D image" and "a position estimating section which estimates corresponding areas on the plurality of 2D images which correspond to the region of interest on the basis of a position of the region of interest designated on the 3D image," as recited in Claim 24.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 11, 16 and 24 patentably distinguish over Sato et al., Rougee, Chen et al., Mori et al. and Slack. Therefore, Claims 1, 11, 16 and 24 and the pending Claims 2-10, 11-15, 17-23 and 25-28 dependent directly or indirectly from Claims 1, 11, 16 and 24 are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussions, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-28. The application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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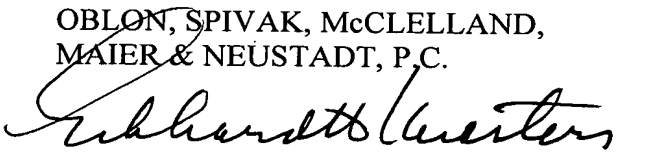

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